

Stan

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Family Day presentation
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Welcome everybody. I'm Admiral Stan Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence. I welcome you to the CIA. I hope you enjoy your visit with us today. More than that, I hope you go away having learned something more about the importance of our Central Intelligence Agency to our nation's welfare.

I'm particularly happy at this first tour and you're the very first as the members of our CIA family. You deserve it because you not only know a lot about intelligence already, but you have and are making important contributions to our Central Intelligence Agency's efforts. You do that through the support that you give to the member of your family who is employed here. I can say / great sincerity that I do not believe there is another agency of this government that asks so much in the way of contribution and sacrifice from the families of its employees as does the CIA. I want you to know that we are that grateful for/and that we recognize it is a critical contribution to our mission. And we are going to ask you for extra help today because this is a new experiment and we want your help in evaluating it, we want your opinion when the tour is finished as to whether we should open this kind of tour to the more general public. And if so, whether the way we are going about presenting the story of intelligence is persuasive, honest and useful. There will be a questionnaire at the end of the tour and as members of the family we ask your frank evaluation and your honest opinions of what you've seen and what we can do better. You may be surprised that we are opening the CIA to visitors. After all intelligence has traditionally been a very secretive matter. And well it must be in many cases.

We believe, however, that there are two areas in which we can share more with the American public.

One is in how we go about our business. What we do to collect and produce good intelligence for our government. Here we believe that there are opportunities to share the process of intelligence without compromising its necessary secret parts. After all, the Congress of the United States through its laws and the President through his orders trusts the Central Intelligence Agency with very important and very sensitive responsibilities. Everyone of us here is dedicated to ensuring that we do not abuse that trust. We ensure against that in one instance by sharing our inner-most secrets with the President and the Congress. And we think we can ensure against that also by sharing as much as we possibly can with the American public.

And the second area in which we believe we can share more is in the product. The product of intelligence is evaluations or estimates of what is going on in other parts of the world or what may go on in other areas of the world. We hope that the product of intelligence which we provide to the policymakers of our government will help them to make better decisions for you and for me.

Being a democracy, every citizen is a policymaker. The opinions, the choices that the citizens make are what make our country strong and I sincerely believe that the better informed our electorate is, the stronger our country will be. And we find that by releasing unclassified information available through the intelligence process, we think we can contribute to the national debate on important issues.

And so we've been doing more in releasing things like the study of the Soviet economy or the world oil situation, or the world steel market, international terrorism and we hope these are helping the public debate.

Now clearly there's a limit on how much we can do in these directions. If we tell the public all about how we collect intelligence, our sources are soon going to dry up. If we release all of the evaluations of estimates that we make, we would deprive the President and other policymakers of inside information from time to time. And hence, we will not, we cannot tell everything about intelligence. We will tell you today in this tour as much as we possibly can. We will endeavor to answer your questions but we hope you'll understand that there are limits to how much we can supply in the way of information. But we hope most earnestly that as you go about this tour you will feel the same sense of excitement, the same sense of importance of contribution to our country which all of us here at the Agency do feel. I hope you enjoy this visit. We will start it now with an audio-visual presentation on the history of intelligence and then we'll ask you to come in our CIA building itself where the staff has set up some excellent displays of the intelligence process and products. We hope these again will help you to appreciate the importance of what we all do here.

Thank you for being with us this opening day.